

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2012

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by CAC Co-Chair Bob Joiner at the Maple Grove Government Center		
Members Present	Leslie Bender Steven Maas Kevin Rebman	Linda Furst Joan Masberg Katie Rodriguez	Bob Joiner Joe Piket Don Skoglund
Members Absent	John Beacham, Stephen Gill, Lorraine Gresser, Greg Hulne, Harry Kennedy, Tim Klevar, Pam Larson		
Others Present	Councilmember Phil Leith; Police Chief Dave Jess, and CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz. Two students from Maple Grove Senior High School and one of the student's parents were present.		
Oaths of Office	The oath of office was administered to the following CAC members to extend their term of service to December 31, 2013. Bender, Furst, Skoglund; Gresser was absent.		
Minutes	The minutes for the December 14, 2011 regular CAC meeting were approved.		
Welcome Students	The students and parent were welcomed to the meeting and introduced themselves.		
Area Reports	Kevin Rebman expressed his continued traffic safety concerns about the area of 96 th and Fernbrook Lane.		
Police Department Update	<p>Police Chief Jess provided his background with the Maple Grove Police Department as well as growing up in the northwest metro area.</p> <p>He talked about reported crime trends and that crime is going down, and they want to keep it that way.</p> <p>Chief Jess stated that in 2011 there were 1,738 traffic accidents, which is up 2.1%. He stated that traffic law enforcement reduces accidents, and they often collaborate with other communities. He stated that each officer is expected to spend 45 minutes per day on traffic observation. In response to a question about what is the biggest factor in traffic accidents, Chief Jess stated that often times speed as well as distractions.</p> <p>He stated he feels roundabouts are very beneficial to reducing traffic accidents and enhancing traffic flow. A request was made of a breakdown of traffic accidents by age of the driver.</p>		

An inquiry was made if there are particular bad traffic accident areas. The Chief stated he is not aware of specific areas, but the officers are and will spend their time in those areas.

Chief Jess covered many different types of crime. He stated that theft from automobiles is prevalent with laptops, purses and electronics being the items most sought. The question was asked about theft from autos at LifeTime Fitness as they will occasionally post signs for members about not leaving valuables in vehicles.

The Chief stated that having a curfew for teens helps and corresponding curfew sweeps brings about a reduction in juvenile crimes such as vandalism.

He talked about retail crime and shoplifting, fraud, embezzlement. He also covered credit card and Internet crimes. He stated that fraud occurs on both credit cards and checks. He stated that high credit card usage and technology play a big part.

Chief Jess spoke briefly about school age programs such as DARE and bullying.

He talked about technology and resources that help the officers on their jobs, such as e-roll call. He said the department reviews what they are doing now and what they can be doing better. He said that technology creates efficiency but can also be expensive and time consuming. He stated the department is focusing on intelligence led policing.

The Chief talked briefly about the Safe Streets program; however, currently there is just one officer assigned to Safe Streets as they are short of staffing.

Chief Jess talked about information sharing among agencies. He stated that Maple Grove is a member of the Northwest Crime Collaboration, which is made up of 50 communities in Hennepin County with 12 member cities in the northwest metro group. He said they meet and share information on crime trends and emerging trends, gang activity, offender lists, releases from prison, and serial crimes.

In response to an inquiry, Chief Jess explained the difference between burglary, robbery and theft. He also spoke briefly about domestic violence.

The Chief talked about various resources for updates and information sharing, specifically mentioning a Tri-County partnership of Hennepin, Ramsey, and Dakota counties.

He talked about working with Hennepin and Anoka Counties on the drug and violent crimes task force. Discussion ensued about drugs in schools

and drug searches in the high schools.

Chief Jess stated that a K-9 unit is a good crime fighting tool and would be very nice to have, yet it is very expensive and there is a lot involved. He did state the majority of Hennepin County communities have K-9 units.

He stated the Police Department is hiring two new officers. Currently there are 63 officers, and the department is allocated for 65. The Chief stated that Maple Grove has a good reputation, and there were several hundred applications for the two openings.

Chief Jess talked about the Partnership Exchange which works to reduce drug use for students in the area. He also talked about the Family Partnership which provides family and youth support.

In response to an inquiry, the Chief explained the social host ordinance Maple Grove has regarding adults providing alcohol to minors.

He stated there is not a lot of gang activity, and gangs have changed over the years—most activity is through theft. He stated that gangs often times live in rental properties, so the City does keep tabs.

The question was asked that it would be thought that crime would be higher due to the downturn in the economy. And, while crime is down, crime usually is higher in a poor economy.

Chief Jess explained the process for alcohol compliance checks and the training provided for businesses. He stated that compliance checks are made to educate and ensure establishments are following the rules; they are not used to entrap. He also talked about businesses overserving customers.

In response to an inquiry, Chief Jess stated that a Police staff member would be happy to come to a townhome association meeting to talk about parking, resident concerns, etc.

The Chief encouraged residents to join the Citizen Police Academy in the fall.

The Committee thanked Chief Jess for his informative presentation.

Other Business/ Updates

Mike Opatz stated there are several updates on projects/road construction in the CAC agenda packet. He also passed around an update on retail development. Councilmember Leith requested the list of new 2011 businesses from the Mayor's State of the Cities presentation be shared with the Committee.

The Skye at Arbor Lakes project was mentioned as well as that OMGBA is still looking for land. An upcoming CAC meeting (possibly May) would be a tour of the new Public Works Facility.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary